

**LONG TERM CARE SUPPORTS & SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

APRIL 23, 2007

Capitol View Building, Conference Rooms A, B & C

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Allison, RoAnne Chaney, Christine Chesny, Linda Ewing, Andrew Farmer, Dohn Hoyle, Sandra Kilde, William Mania, Yolanda McKinney, Marsha Moers, Denise Rabidoux, Jon Reardon, Toni Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: William Gutos, Hollis Turnham, Reverend Charles Williams II

EX OFFICIO AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Ablan, Sharon Gire, Don Mussen

HANDOUTS: Agenda, March Minutes, Executive Committee Conference Call Notes, Governor's Appointments Press Release, Rep. Mary Valentine's response to budget advocacy letter, OLTCCS Director's Report, Presentation on Single Points of Entry Workgroup of the Long Term Care Task Force, Presentation on the SPE Legislation, Preliminary Report of the A Team of the Governor's Task Force on Medicaid Long Term Care, Workgroup A Decision Document, Michigan's Long Term Care Connections power point presentation, Workgroup A Minority Reports (2)

What's Happened

INTRODUCTIONS – Farmer presided as Chair of the Commission and initiated introductions.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES – Motion to approve Minutes by Reardon, second by Chaney. Minutes adopted.

Kilde requested additional information/clarification of the purpose, role, and membership of the Coalition mentioned on page 3 under Michigan's Fiscal Crisis. Information about the Move Michigan Forward Campaign was provided: over 70 representatives from a wide range of organizations gathered together to learn of the state's very critical fiscal situation and to begin the process of mobilizing grassroots support for revenue solutions, rather than cuts, to resolve the current crisis. Materials were distributed at the meeting that will enable state and local organizations to contact legislators, write letters to the editor, adopt board resolutions and more. The following materials were distributed at the Move Michigan Forward meeting. Additional materials will be added as they become available, including notices of town hall meetings in local communities.

- [Revenue Solutions Brief -- March 2007](#)
- [Michigan's Fiscal Crisis -- No More Cuts](#)
- [Public Services Provide Quality of Life for Everyday Michigan Citizens](#)
- [10 Facts](#)
- [10 Facts Brochure](#)
- [OpEd](#)
- [Detroit News OpEd](#)

- [Michigan Osteopathic Association](#)
- [You Can Do It Brochure](#)
- [How to Contact Michigan Legislators](#)
- [Letters to the Editors](#)
- [Move Michigan Forward PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Move Michigan Forward Campaign web site is:

<http://www.milhs.org/information/default.asp?NavPageID=56564>

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion to approve by Moers, second by Ewing. Motion passed by voice vote.

REPORT OF CHAIR – Farmer acknowledged the passing of Commissioner James Francis-Bohr and asked Chaney to read a tribute she had prepared.

A Tribute to James Francis-Bohr, Ph.D.

Jim was a person of humor, generosity, and abiding integrity. He embodied autonomy and self-determination - in his work and in his life – in our work and our lives. He taught us through the example of his life and the wisdom of his advocacy. At age 21, Jim acquired a high-level spinal cord injury while a student at, and working for, MSU. He spent many months using a ventilator.”

He was told by some he should or would live out his life in a nursing home, but he negotiated with insurance for 16 hours a day of personal care and assistance, despite the fact that this would cost more per day than living in a nursing home.

By Jim choosing his own path, choosing to fight to have a life, choosing to reject some advice:

- Jim earned a Ph.D. in Chemical Science working at one point on rocket fuel design.
- He married his high school love.
- He and his wife adopted two daughters from China.
- He worked full-time and paid taxes for well over 20 years, mostly in the area of Information Technology.

Despite Jim's ability to succeed and have a rich life, he remained aware of, and concerned that, many who need long-term care and support, as he did, are denied the opportunities he was able to capture. In his final months, and especially his final days, when we all thought he would recover, he strongly voiced a desire to work more with me for long-term care reform.

Jim was able to live 28 years with a very significant disability because he had excellent, compensated care. He is no longer physically here to work with us for reform, but he is here spiritually and I trust that power to help me and all of us continue our efforts for reform and quality.

Among the things Jim taught us are:

- That family and friends are the source of life's meaning;

- That real choice and real support bring out the best in all of us;
- That we can become our deepest wishes if we act together;
- That living what is most important to us is the essence of life.

Our tribute to you, Jim, is living what you taught us.

Farmer indicated that a condolence letter was sent to Jim's family, a copy is available from Office staff, and asked for a moment of silence in Jim's honor.

Commission advocacy activities continue to focus on the state budget. A second letter was sent to the Legislature. Response was received from Rep. Mary Valentine.

Farmer has been meeting one-on-one with Commissioners. He reports this is enormously enlightening and rewarding.

Governor has made appointments/reappointments. Farmer welcomed Denise Rabidoux to the Commission. Ms. Rabidoux is a registered nurse, and has spent her entire career in long-term care. She was appointed to represent direct care workers. Kilde was reappointed to the Commission, this time to represent primary and secondary consumers.

The Commission is continuing to explore the possibility of holding a meeting in Detroit. More information to come.

Chesney asks if there will be a replacement for Francis-Bohr. Head indicates that appointments are handled by

the Governor's office. They are aware of his passing and the vacancy it creates. Chair should work with Governor's Appointments office to recommend a replacement.

What's Happening

OLTCSS DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Head provided an update of office activities. LTC Connections are moving forward, but slow to evolve. Quarterly reports are due at end of April. Independent evaluation required by statute has been contracted to Michigan Public Health Institute.

In final stages of strategic planning for Systems Transformation Grant. Head will present plan and budget to CMS this week. Unable to expend more than 10% until the budget is approved. Freeze on hiring has implications. Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant and Systems Transformation grants require Civil Service positions.

The Office received a seed grant from the Center for Health Care Strategies and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to establish a LTC Insurance Partnership in Michigan. The Office is in the process of pulling the steering committee together. The Insurance Code needs amending to comply with requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act, the federal legislation that authorizes partnership expansion. Discussion on LTC insurance ensued.

LTC Connections stakeholder forums ARE now held bi-monthly. The next forum is scheduled for May 21.

Head shared waiver utilization data with the MI Choice Waiver Renewal Stakeholder Workgroup; will share same information with Commissioners. Subcommittee considering MI Choice services in licensed residential settings. Kilde questions whether a motion for Commission support is appropriate at this time. Will discuss at next meeting.

STATE BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS STATUS - Budget situation is grim; dealing with cuts for current year, uncertain about next year. 07 Executive Order reduces long-term care line by \$1.7 million, a marginal amount. The Senate passed a negative supplemental for rate reductions of \$59.9M in the long-term care services line. House reduces provider payments by 6.25%. Two chambers need to reconcile differences.

FY 08 not impacted as of yet; assumes revenue enhancements as proposed. Executive budget rolls up long-term care into a single line. House rejected roll up but increases MI Choice by \$10 million.

Budget includes funding for SPEs, assumes collection under estate recovery, funds home help wage, changes in nursing facility variable cost limit for state plan, \$11M for Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant, and \$7.4M for nursing facility transitions.

Paul Reinhart, Medicaid Director discussed a pending letter that notifies providers of delayed payments for FY 07. State has huge cash flow problem at end of May. Medicaid is large part of cash flow. Recommended delay in provider tax-based payments in nursing facility, health plans, and

hospitals. In past, the payment was held at local level for three months and then they paid back to state. Compressed collection time period now results in payment made and tax collected within a few days. Advocacy for revenue as part of the solution is critical, per Reinhart. Letter will go out this date to implement House passed reductions of 6.25% effective June.

SPE DEMONSTRATIONS PRIMER - Susan Steinke provided an overview of deliberations of Workgroup A of the Medicaid Long-Term Care Task Force. Susan Martin provided an overview of the development process for Public Act 634. Head and Nora Barkey provided an overview of the demonstration initiative, including the contracting process and roll-out activities. Copies of their presentations are available at <http://www.michigan.gov/ltc/0,1607,7-148--143908--,00.html> as part of the meeting documents.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Lynn Kellogg, Executive Director of Region IV Area Agency on Aging, a host site for the Southwest MI LTCC, provided a local perspective on how the demonstration is going. A copy of her comments is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/ltc/0,1607,7-148--143908--,00.html> as part of the meeting documents.

What We're Going to Do About It?

RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION RELATIVE TO SPE DEMONSTRATIONS -

Chaney would like an options counselor to address the Commission. Ablan would like to hear from options counselors that are actually working with consumers.

Workgroup A recommended development of a system that would work well for consumer, eliminate delay and over-assessment. Ablan has concerns about the LTC Connections' ability to streamline assessments based on conversations with options counselors.

Hoyle requests that the Commission also be addressed by an SPE Director/ Administrator.

Farmer suggests the Commission could assist in addressing barriers by mitigating expectations with reality. He suggests that questions be posed to the Office in writing, continued updates and participation in the evaluation to help foster a better understanding of the issues.

Getting It Done

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Reardon reflects that budget cuts were not thoroughly explained. Cuts to nursing facilities have compounded over several fiscal years and are much more significant than reported.

Farmer requests Commissions ramp up their advocacy for revenue enhancements. He also recommends that Commissioners visit at least one of the LTC Connections for a first-hand look at their impact in the community.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Chaney, second by Chesny.

NEXT MEETINGS -

**May 21, 2007, Capitol View, Conference Rooms
A-C 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**June 25, 2007, Capitol View Conference Rooms
A-C 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

RECORD OF MOTIONS:

MOTION	FIRST	SECON D	ACTION
Approval of Agenda	Moers	Ewing	Passed
Approval of March Minutes	Reardon	Chaney	Passed
Adjournment	Chaney	Chesny	Passed